

# The Daily Courant.

Saturday, November 22. 1718.

*A Letter written from Paris, by Mons. the Count N. N. to Monsieur N. N. at the Hague, Oct. 5, 1718.  
Translated from the French, Printed in Holland.*

**I**HAVE seen the Memorial which M. the Marquis de Beretti Landi has deliver'd in Holland, to justify the unexpected Irruption which the Arms of his Catholick Majesty have made in Sicily; and I see by your Letter of the 13th of last Month, that it is Matter of Surprize, that they would found the Motives of that Irruption upon the Conduct of the King of Sicily, who confiding in the sacred and publick Faith of the Peace of Utrecht, and the Neutrality of Italy establish'd by that Peace, and confirmed by that of Rastadt, has always preserv'd a sincere Bagneuse, and a constant Attention, to maintain that Neutrality and that Peace, to observe religiously his Treaties, and to contribute to the Repose of Italy and Europe.

That being so, I am perswaded, that this Memorial has made no Impression upon you, nor will do so upon any Person of good Sense, who will be pleas'd to make suitable Reflections upon the Deposite of Sicily in the Hands of the King of Spain, which the Memorial represents as the only Expedient and Recourse that remains to the King of that Island for preserving his Kingdom, and as one of the Motives which have induced the Catholick King to seize upon it by Arms. And I am further perswaded, that what has happen'd since, the Irruption of the Spaniards into Sicily, suffices for making the Violence and Injustice of that Irruption evidently appear.

The King of Sicily surpriz'd, without any Treaty with the Emperour, without any Concert of the Potentates Mediators, without any of his Ministers being instructed, or authoriz'd to accept the Project of Peace, having in Sicily no other than his own Troops, without an Union with any Ally, are Facts so notorious and so positive, that they suffice for entirely clearing the regular Conduct of that King, and for destroying all the false Suppositions upon which the Spanish Memorial is founded.

In the mean time, seeing you desire that I should communicate to you my particular Thoughts, I hope you will pardon me if I have hitherto delay'd it, for I have employ'd that time in seeking out Lights to clear up the Facts, and it has succeeded so well, that I have had the Opportunity of receiving just and particular Knowledge of Things, from a Person who is the best instructed in them, which I am going to communicate to you, assuring you at the same time, that you may give entire Credit to them.

Permit me nevertheless, before I begin, to ask you if it be not notorious, that the Project of exchanging the Kingdom of Sicily, was form'd not only without any Participation or Connivance of the King of Sicily, but even without his Knowledge, and to make use of the Terms of the same Project, *Citra assensum eorum quorum interest.*

I know well, that you cannot disagree to this Truth, being an incontestable Fact, and which enough proves that a Project form'd by the three Potentates without the Knowledge of his Sicilian Majesty, cannot have given a Motive or Pretext to the Catholick King to complain of the King of Sicily, much less to attack him with Violence, and to despoil him of a Kingdom which himself was oblig'd to guaranty to him.

But you must know also, that the Regularity of the Conduct of the King of Sicily is a Truth which hath been acknowledg'd by Cardinal Alberoni, and acknowledg'd by himself to Count Lascaris, in a Conference which I am assur'd that Count had with him the 13th of May last, wherein the Cardinal talking of the said Project, declar'd that he was very well satisfied with the Offices and Steps of the King of Sicily; and you ought to know, that that Cardinal confirm'd still more specifically, the same Declaration by Letters written to the Prince de Cellamare, Ambassador of the Catholick King at Paris, the 1st and the 21st of the same Month of May, which Letters the Prince de Cellamare read to the Person from whom I had what I write to you.

The Conduct of the King of Sicily to the 24th of May then, is in all Respects clear'd, by the Acknowledgement even of the Court of Spain, by that of its Ambassadors, and by that of Cardinal Alberoni; and in the mean time, the Courier who brought the Order to Barcelona, for the Spanish Fleet to sail and land the Troops in Sicily, was dispatch'd by the Cardinal towards the latter End of the said Month of May, that is to say, at a time when he knew he had no Reason to doubt, and that he confess'd the Conduct of his Sicilian Majesty was free from all Reproach.

Let us see now if the Right of Reversion, which Spain preserv'd to it self upon Sicily, has given Room to attack it.

For Spain's having a Right to make use of the Violence of Arms to reclaim Sicily, there must have been, that the King of that Island had himself given Cause for the Revocation of the Cession, which the Catholick King had made to him of it. There must have been for giving Room to the Reversion; that the King of Sicily had given up, exchang'd, or otherwise dispos'd of the Kingdom of Sicily, which is what was not serv'd to him.

You have seen on the contrary, that upon all these Points, the Conduct of the King of Sicily is without Reproach; you have seen that Cardinal Alberoni has himself acknowledg'd to the King of Sicily's Minister in Spain, has himself written to the Minister of his King at Paris, that the King of Sicily was really willing religiously to observe the Treaty; and consequently there remains no more for me to say, than that seeing the King of Sicily has given no Motive for the Revocation of the Cession, seeing he has done nothing, and that he has even consented to nothing contrary to the Right of Reversion; you must certainly acknowledge to me, that the Invasion of Sicily, founded upon Motives that are not to be maintain'd, far from justifying the King of Spain, on the contrary, deprive him of the Reversion which he had reserv'd to himself by the Act of Cession of that Kingdom, in the peaceable Possession whereof he has promis'd to maintain the King of Sicily.

You have in the meantime express'd to me in your Letter, some Curiosity upon those Propositions of the League, which the Memorial of M. the Marquis de Beretti Landi names monstrous Extravagancies.

To explain that Fact, I ought to tell you, that Cardinal Alberoni, at the beginning of last Winter, while the King of Sicily, without giving himself any Movement that could inspire Jealousy into his Neighbours, employ'd himself only in the Care of paying Debts he had contracted for supporting the Burden of the late War, and to establish the Means for letting his Subjects taste the Benefits of Peace, made him uncertain and distant Insinuations to ingage him in an offensive War against the Emperour, and supported those Insinuations by artificial Assurance's that the Duke Regent would be of the Party, and that the States General would declare themselves in Time and Place.

The King of Sicily, who had just Cause to believe the Regent of France had Sentiments very opposite to those of Troubles and War, and could not perswade himself, that it was consistent with the Prudence and Wisdom of the States General to kindle a new Flame, look'd upon these Insinuations as Suspicious, and the Event has since shewn that he was not mistaken, seeing the Cardinal, after many Insinuations of like Nature, all tending to the having of Sicily in his Hands, (after he had declar'd himself in a Conference which he had with the Count de Lascaris the 21st of May) made the following Proposals; and accompanied them with a Letter under his own Hand to the King of Sicily, whereof I have not been able to get a Copy.

I. That there should be a League Offensive and Defensive between the two Kings for so long time as the King of Sicily should desire.

II. That Spain, after having conquer'd the Kingdom of Naples and not before, should give and maintain at his own Expence, during the War in Lombardy, 3000 Horse and 12000 Foot, for making a Conquest of the State of Milan conjunctly with the Troops of the King of Sicily, and should oblige himself moreover to maintain his Fleet in the Seas of Italy.

III. That the King of Spain should give up and remit to the King of Sicily the State of Milan.

IV. That Spain should continue the War till such time as all the State of Milan be conquer'd, and as long as the King of Sicily should desire it.

V. That in the mean time, and by way of Depository, the King of Sicily should put that Kingdom into the Hands of the King of Spain.

VI. That when the State of Milan should be conquer'd, and should be given up and put into the Hands of the King of Sicily, the Kingdom of Sicily should remain to Spain.

And a few Days after he add'd the Offer of a Million of Crowns, for the King of Sicily to make Levies next Winter in Switzerland, demanding at the same time that that Prince should send immediately his Orders to Sicily, for his Governors there to receive Spanish Troops, even before the Conclusion of the Treaty.

It is proper to remark two Circumstances: One, that these Propositions were made some Hours after

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the Order had been sent to the Fleet to depart to attack Sicily; and the Other, that they were made in the same Conference wherein the Cardinal protested that he was entirely convinc'd of the good Faith of the King of Sicily, and of his Regularity in observing the Treaties, and maintaining a sincere Friendship with the Catholick King.

I demand of you now, if it be a Motive which has the least Shadow of Justice for entring with an arm'd Force into the Dominions of a Prince, and for invading a Kingdom whereof one is Guarantie, because that Prince has not accepted capious Propositions that are made to him. Such a Motive for War has not yet been put in Practice, even by Potentates the most Superior. You may judge your self if it be as Just as it is New.

I perwade my self, Sir, that you will find equally weak the Arguments which Spain founds upon the King of Sicily's Negotiations at Vienna.

When one Sovereign makes with another a Treaty of perpetual Amity and Alliance, he loses not the Liberty to cultivate or to seek out other Friendships and other Alliances; and it is indisputable that the King of Sicily might seek the Friendship and Alliance of his Imperial Majesty without the Court of Madrid's taking any Exception at it, provided that in doing it he did no Injury to the Ingagements he already had with that Court.

A Treaty of perpetual Amity and Alliance, engages the Princes who make it never to be Enemies, but it engages them not to contract no other Friendship, or to be Enemies to all the rest of Mankind.

The Interests of the King of Sicily with the Emperour are not unknown at Madrid; they are in Consequence of a Treaty with the Duke of Savoy, concluded in the Year 1703, with the Emperour Leopold, and have no Connexion with the Act of the Cession of Sicily.

The King of Sicily sent Ministers to Vienna to regulate his Interests. But Spain has no Cause to be offended at that, much less to make it a Pretence for Vengeance by Arms; and in fact, Nothing was done at Vienna by those Ministers that could give the King of Spain the least Jealousy, at the time the Spaniards invaded Sicily.

If the King of Sicily had offer'd that Island to the Emperour, it cannot be doubted that a Re-union of that King with the Emperour would have been the immediate Consequence of it; but since that Re-union, to which there was no Obstacle but the Treaties with Spain, was not made, it cannot be deny'd, that till the Rupture unjustly made by Spain, the King of Sicily had propos'd nothing, and negotiatised nothing at Vienna that Spain could complain of.

But what will you say, if Spain, who at the time they attack'd Sicily acknowledg'd, as I have shewn you, that the Conduct of the King of Sicily was without Reproch, has even after the Irruption into Sicily, acknowledg'd and declar'd in a Manner the most authentick, that they had nothing to pretend upon that Kingdom, and that the King of Sicily was right and lawful King of it.

To let you into the Fact of this, you must know, that after the News of the Entry of the Spaniards into Palermo, and the Siege of Castellamare, was come to Madrid, that Court dispatch'd to the Marquis de Villamajor, who resided at Madrid, the Declaration and Orders contained in the following Letter of the Secretary of State and War, Don Michel Fernandes Durand, the 27th of July.

BY that time this comes to your Hands, they will have received Advice in the Court where you are, of the Place where our Fleet has stopt, and of the Landing they have made in Sicily, having taken Possession of the City of Palermo the 5th Instant; and the King our Master orders your Excellency, that as soon as you have received this, you represent and assure his Sicilian Majesty, that the Design in passing an Army into that Island, proceeds not from any Design his Majesty has ever had, or even thought of failing in his good Faith, or violating the Treaty of the Cession of the Kingdom of Sicily; but that he has been induc'd to this only by the moral and notorious Assurance he has, that a Design is form'd, and Measures taken for dispoiling, (without the least Foundation of Reason or Justice) his Sicilian Majesty of that Kingdom, in order to put it into the Hands of the Archduke, and thereby augment his too great Power, so prejudicial and so fatal to Europe, to the Liberty of Italy, and to the publick Good. A Project so extraordinary, and so fatal to all Europe, and the just and indispensable Necessity which obliges the King our Master to oppose the aggrandizing of his Enemy, knowing besides, that his Sicilian Majesty is not in a Condition to resist the Violence of the Potentates Mediators, who conjointly with the Archduke would despoil him of that Kingdom; are powerful and incontestable Motives which have induc'd his Majesty to direct his Arms into Sicily; protosting at the same time, that he has never had the least Intension to give Offence to his Sicilian Majesty.

The King is convinc'd, that the Reality of these Expressions will persuade that Sovereigns the solid Reasons, and the pressing Motives that he has had, for taking such a Resolution, assuring himself, that notwithstanding what has happen'd, if his Sicilian Majesty will cultivate a good Harmony and Correspondence with Spain, there will arise from it final and glorious Advantages, and the King our Master will always concur with his Forces and all his Power in soliciting the Satisfaction of his Sicilian Majesty, and in augmenting the Bonds of Amity, Interest, and Parentage, which establish and ought to preserve the most perfect Union between the two Crowns and the two Nations. July 25, &c.

It is seen by this Letter, that the King of Sicily is reproach'd with Nothing, that they acknowledg'd him still King of Sicily, and that his Catholick Majesty declares he would not injure the Treaty of Cession of that Kingdom.

How does what the Catholick King writes by the Canal of his Secretary of State, and what he order'd his Ambassador at Turin to declare, agree with what he order'd the Marquis de Lede to execute in Sicily, and with what he orders the Marquis de Beretti Lands his Ambassador to stay in Holland?

You will without doubt then be surpriz'd and with Reason, to see Spain at a time when it declares it self convinc'd of the regular Conduct and the good Faith of the King of Sicily, attack his Dominions; and that at a time when the Spaniards are exercising in the Dominions of that King the most unjust Hostilities, the King of Spain declares that he is not his Enemy.

They now accuse the King of Sicily of want of good Faith. Is there good Faith then in a Conduct so contradictory as is that of Spain, and in Assurances and Declarations which are continually contradicted by publick and incontestable Facts. I leave you to judge whether it be at Turin or at Madrid, that good Faith reigns most. I am, &c.

London, November 22.

To-morrow being Sunday the 23d Instant, a new Organ at St. James Garlick-Hythe, made by John Knoppell, will be open'd by Mr. Talbot Young, Sworn Musician in ordinary to His most Excellent Majesty King George. There will be also a Three Part Anthem perform'd by three Gentlemen of His Majesty's Chapel after Sermon, both Morning and Afternoon.

London, November 22.

Yesterday South-Sea Stock was 108 5 8ths, 108 3 8ths, 108 5 8ths, 108 1 qr, 10 108 3 8ths. Bank 145 1 half, to 145. India 193, 193 1 half, 192 1 qr, 192 3 qrs, 192 3 qrs, to 192 1 qr. Lottery Annuity 102 1 half, to 102 3 8ths.

At the particular desire of several Ladies of Quality. By His Majesty's Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre-Royal, in Drury-Lane, this present Saturday, being the 22d of November, will be presented a Play, call'd the Orphan; or, The Happy Marriage. Castello Mr. Booth, Polydor Mr. Mills, Chattoe Mr. Ellington, Acallo Mr. Bonas, the Chaplain Mr. Cibber, Monilia Mr. Porter, the Page Miss Linda.

AT the King's Theatre in the Hay-Market, on Thursday, being the 27th of November, will be a Ball. Tickets will be delivered to the subscribers at Mrs. White's Chocolate-House in St. James's-Street on Tuesday next.

At the Desire of several Persons of Quality.

By the Company of Comedians.

AT the Theatre in Little-Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, this present Saturday, being the 22d of November, will be presented, A Dramatick Opera, call'd the Prophets; or the History of Drusilah. In which, instead of the Original Musick, will be performed a Mask, never performed there before, call'd Venus and Adonis, act 1, Ainslie by Dr. Pepys. Venus Mrs. Bartoller, Adonis by signora Marguerite De L'Epine, and Mars by Mr. Leveridge. With Scenes, Machines, Habits, and Dances proper. Boxes 3 & Pit 3 & Gallery 2.

Notice is hereby given, that Mrs. White, Wife of white the Borker, at the Theatre in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, makes and provides all Manner of Masquerade Habit for Gentlemen and Ladies, and sells or lends out the same, at reasonable Rates, from her House in Little-Wid-street; and on the Day of the Masquerade, Attendance will be given with Drills, at Rice's Coffee-house near the Opera-House in the Hay-Market.

Suppos'd to be left in a Hackney Coach on Wednesday the 16th Instant, by a Person who took it in Pall-Mall, a Box for 100 l. dated the 16th Instant, payable to Mr. Day. If the Person who has found it, will send it to Meyer's Coffee-House in King-Street, Bloomsbury, he shall receive 5 l. for his Trouble, it being of no use to any but the Owner.

To be Sold out of a Gentleman's Stable,

A very good young seal'd black Coach  
Mar, marked with a Star and Ship. To inquire of Mr. Mar at his Coffee-house over-against Lincoln's-Inn-Gate in Chancery-lane, and you may know further.

To oblige the Curious, there will be exposed to Sale at Mr. Lushington's, the King's Arms in the Little-Piazza, Covent Garden, a most celebrated Collection of Prints and Drawings by the best Masters of Europe, Italian, French, and Flemish; being the Collection of Myn Herr Simonis, late of Brussells, Closets keeper to the Archduke Leopold (Governor of the Netherlands) and also to his late Majesty King William, his gift over by Mr. Ferdinand Cortvriendt. The Publick will be advertised in a few Days time when to be view'd and sold, by Wm. Wilton, Manager of the Sale.

